

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-30 are currently active in this case. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended, and Claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 15, 16, 18, 21, 29 and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over *Chang et al.* (U.S. Pat No. 6,272,664, hereinafter *Chang*), Claims 8-14 and 22-28 were allowed, and Claims 3, 5, 6, 17, 19, and 20 were objected to but were identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the allowance of Claims 8-14 and 22-28 , and the identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 5, 6, 17, 19, and 20.

Applicant respectfully submits amended Claims 1 and 15. Amended Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 3, and amended Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 17. Each of Claims 3 and 15 were identified as containing allowable subject matter, that subject matter is now present in independent Claims 1 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the cited art references.

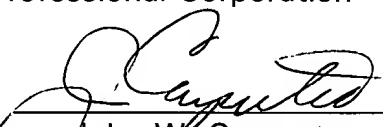
Based on the patentability of independent Claims 1 and 15, Applicant further respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2, 4-14, 16, and 18-21 are also patentable. Combined with the cancellation of Claims 3, and 17, and the previous allowance of Claims 8-14 and 22-28, Applicants further respectfully submit that all currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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